

MICHIGANIANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Michiganians. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Michigan. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Michigan.

INCOME: MICHIGANIANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Michigan was \$52,790.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Michigan was \$44,801, a significant drop of 15.1 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN MICHIGAN HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Michigan had 901,000 adults without insurance (9.1 percent).³
- In 2005, Michigan had 1,333,000 adults without insurance (11.4 percent).⁴
- Michigan had 89,257 children benefit from the SCHIP program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN MICHIGAN

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Michigan was \$9,841.⁶ In 2005, it was \$12,658, a 29 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Michigan was \$16,040.⁸ In 2005, it was \$19,286, a 20 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Michiganians affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 138,474¹⁰
- Number of Michiganians affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 113,416¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR MICHIGAN RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Michigan was \$1.420 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Michigan is \$2.203 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Michigan was \$2,077.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Michigan is \$3,222, \$1,145 (55.1 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: MICHIGANIANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Michigan – 1,716,290¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Michigan – \$934¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: MICHIGANIANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Michiganians killed in Iraq – 92¹⁸
- Number of Michiganians wounded in Iraq – 588¹⁹
- Number of Michiganians killed in Afghanistan – 4²⁰
- Number of Michiganians wounded in Afghanistan – 23²¹
- Number of Veterans in Michigan – 836,950²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING MICHIGAN'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 834 estates in Michigan paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 153 estates in Michigan will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING IS DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 12,150,060²⁵
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 7,214,286²⁶

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST MICHIGANIANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Michiganians.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Michigan residents each received an average of \$2,793 in tax cuts, while middle class Michigan residents received only \$417.²⁷
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Michigan residents will receive an average of \$33,986 in tax cuts, while middle class Michigan residents will only receive \$746.²⁸
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Michigan residents will each receive an average of \$64,859 in tax cuts, while middle class Michigan residents will only receive \$868.²⁹

The richest Michiganians receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Michiganians received 6.4 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.8 percent of the tax cut.³⁰
- But, in 2006, the richest Michiganians will get 24.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.7 percent of the tax cut.³¹

- And, in 2010, the richest Michiganians will get 44.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.9 percent of the tax cut.³²

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Michiganians.

- In 2010, the richest Michiganians will receive an average of \$8,416 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Michiganians will be getting over 41.3 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³³
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Michiganians will receive an average of \$49 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 5 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁴

SOURCES

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- 6: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
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- 24: United for a Fair Economy [www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html]. This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
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[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]

28: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

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